

CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN UPDATE 2009
TRIBAL COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE
Highlights from April 8, 2008, Meeting

The Tribal Communication Committee (TCC) held its seventh meeting on April 8, 2008, in Sacramento. In attendance were nine persons affiliated with Tribal organizations (including two on the telephone), along with staff from the Department of Water Resources and facilitators from the Center for Collaborative Policy. The meeting's objective was to complete the Communication Plan for Tribal outreach for the California Water Plan Update 2009 (CWP).

This meeting was primarily focused on revising the language in the plan rather than discussing particular topics. When completed, the final plan will be posted to the TCC website.

Highlights of the group's activities include adding a "mission" statement and revising a definition of "California Native American Tribes" to make it as inclusive as possible. The group also identified and discussed numerous strategies for increasing communication with Tribes and Tribal involvement in the CWP.

It was emphasized that the best way to build relationships with Tribes was through individual site-visits, which for the CWP would involve Kamyar Guivetchi, Manager, Statewide Water Planning. It was also expressed that Tribal persons from an area also had a major role to play in individually contacting other Tribes in that area, as again personal relationships are the basis of communication and credibility.

Finally, the group also spent time identifying and clarifying ways to evaluate the effectiveness of the Plan's strategies, including potential survey instruments that could be used at meetings.